

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Jamshid Afshar <jamshid@io.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 1999 10:03 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Jamshid Afshar (jamshid@io.com)
on Friday, July 23, 1999 at 09:03:38

comments: The airwaves belong to the people. Don't hand it all over to corporations. I support microradio.

address: 80 Red River St #118

city: Austin

state: TX

zip: 78701

Submit: Send to FCC

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AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not

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Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio

in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press

Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

DK-9925

From: Donna Henderson <donna@math.uconn.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Tue, Jul 27, 1999 3:19 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Donna Henderson (donna@math.uconn.edu)
on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 14:19:26

comments: I STRONGLY support the creation of an LPFM radio system in the US.

address: 464 Park Road

city: West Hartford

state: ct

zip: 06119

Submit: Send to FCC

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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

From: brian redfern <bredfern@spicenet.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 7:51 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

This email was submitted by brian redfern (bredfern@spicenet.net)
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 18:51:02

comments: Please do what you know is right, support freedom of speech and expression over our public airwaves, don't let the greedy destroy diversity and competition, America is about expression, not monopoly.

address: 2325 Teasley Street

city: La Crescenta

state: ca

zip: 91214

Submit: Send to FCC

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From: Mandy Reed <mandyreed@hotmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 2:30 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

ORIGINAL

DK 99-25

This email was submitted by Mandy Reed (mandyreed@hotmail.com)
on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 01:30:49

address: po box 3417

city: Silverdale

state: WA

zip: 98383-3417

Submit: Send to FCC

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

DK99-25

From: HOWARD F HELG <HFH@EXCITE.COM>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 2:32 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by HOWARD F HELG (HFH@EXCITE.COM)
on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 01:32:33

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comments: DEAR SIR.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I LIVE IN AMERICAN SAMOA A US TERRITORY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. WE HAVE ONLY
ONE RADIO STATION ON THE ISLAND IT WOULD BE A REAL PLUS TO ABLE TO START
LP FM STATIONS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF OUR MOUNTAINOUS ISLANDS AS THE LOCAL
STATION CANNOT REACH
ALL PARTS. HFH

address: PO BOX 4197 PAGO PAGO

city: PAGO PAGO AMERICAN SAMOA

state: AS

zip: 96799

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

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Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to
us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves.
We have become increasingly concerned about the growing
concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that

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the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year

alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

From: Keith Coon -- Arizona State University <grcoon@imap1.asu.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 3:26 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

DK-99-25

This email was submitted by Keith Coon -- Arizona State University (grcoon@imap1.asu.edu)
on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 02:26:49

comments: It's time the big corporations took a backseat and let indie music in. Their monopoly on the music industry sickens me and leads to stagnation. Follow the lead of internet music and LPFM and let the airwaves be FREE.

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address: 239 E. Pebble Beach Dr.

city: Tempe

state: AZ

zip: 85282

Submit: Send to FCC

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
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